United Nations S/2000/507

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 27 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq in the so-called no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 15 to 22 May 2000 United States and British aircraft carried out 152 sorties in the course of which they bombed civilian installations in Iraq, killing one child, wounding 11 civilian citizens and killing and injuring large numbers of livestock.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45746 (E) 010600 010600

Annex to the identical letters dated 27 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 152 sorties in the period from 15 to 22 May 2000, 72 of them from Saudi Arabia, 46 from Kuwait and 34 from Turkey, as shown hereunder. As a result, one child was killed, 11 adult civilians were wounded and large numbers of livestock were killed and injured.

1. In the northern region 34 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1820 hours on 15 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Irbil areas. They attacked a civilian installation in Ninawa Governorate, injuring two civilians. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2120 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1130 hours on 22 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Zakho, Aqrah, Mosul and Irbil areas. They attacked a civilian installation in Ninawa Governorate, injuring one civilian. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 118 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 2230 hours on 16 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Kut and Nu`maniyah areas and attacked civilian installations there. Four people were wounded, including a child. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0100 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1000 hours on 17 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace.

They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Nukhayb, Najaf, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Taqtaqanah and Qal'at Salih areas. The aircraft attacked civilian installations in the Mishkhab district of Najaf Governorate, killing a 13-year-old child, wounding four herdsmen, setting fire to crops and killing and injuring large numbers of livestock. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1105 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1055 hours on 18 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Jalibah, Samawah, Rumaythah, Shinafiyah, Nukhayb, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Qal'at Sukkar, Najaf, Hayy, Diwaniyah, Amarah and Afak areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1205 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1030 hours on 19 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Jalibah, Samawah, Nukhayb, Ashbajah, Salman and Basrah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1125 hours on 20 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Busayyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Rifa'i, Salman and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1005 hours on 21 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 missions, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Rifa'i, Najaf, Taqtaqanah, Afak, Hayy, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Salman and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1120 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0855 hours on 22 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of

an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Artawi and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt their attacks and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq